



WEB RELEASE

THE COLOMBO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (Base Year 2013) – MARCH 2018
DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

TEL: 011-2147414

FAX: 011-2877945

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1. Introduction

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the authorized agency to compile Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI). The base year used for compilation of CCPI from June 2011 to December 2016 was the year 2006/07. Following internationally accepted guidelines, it has been arranged to revise the base year from 2006/07=100 to 2013=100 in order to accommodate the changing expenditure patterns and in cooperate changes of goods & services available in the market. Accordingly with respect to the new base, CCPI (Base 2013=100) will be released monthly commencing from January 2017 on the last working day of each month. It is emphasized that index numbers or inflation figures compiled under different base years cannot be compared.

The CCPI is compiled to indicate average changes in the prices of goods and services purchased by households in urban areas of Colombo district. Prices for items in the Colombo Consumer Price Index are collected from 14 selected centers located in Colombo namely Pettah, Maradana, Wellawatta, Dematagoda, Grandpass, Borella, Kirulapone, Dehiwala–Mt. Lavinia, Kotte, Nugegoda, Kolonnawa, Rathmalana, and Narahenpita and Rathmalana dedicated economic centers. Prices are collected weekly from the outlets located within each of the above market areas including Lak Sathosa and a supermarket. The consumer basket includes 392 items which represent the typical urban household consumption expenditure. The CPI weights are derived from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2012/13.

For more details on the revision of base year, please click here: [Technical Note on Base Year Revision](#)

Table 1- Monthly Changes by main Groups of Market Basket

Major Group*	Index Number			Monthly Changes of the Expenditure Values(Rs.)			Monthly Changes of the Index (%)		
	Mar. 2017	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018
All Items	116.5	121.9	121.4	-96.41	-570.03	-300.09	-0.14	-0.77	-0.41
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	121.1	129.3	127.3	-142.69	-647.88	-341.61	-0.20	-0.87	-0.46
Non Food	114.7	118.9	119.0	46.29	77.84	41.52	0.07	0.11	0.06
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	110.1	110.6	110.7	-12.49	19.24	9.07	-0.02	0.03	0.01
Furnishing Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	109.9	124.8	126.7	9.32	14.19	28.68	0.01	0.02	0.04
Other	119.1	125.7	125.7	49.46	44.42	3.77	0.07	0.06	0.01

*Note : There are 12 main groups of the market basket. Significant changes in March 2018 were noted only in three main groups, details on which are given in Table2.

2. Variations in Colombo Consumer Price Index

Month on month changes in the Colombo Consumer Price Index is briefly described below.

2.1 Month on Month (M on M) Change of CCPI:

The CCPI for all items for the month of March 2018 was 121.4 and it records a decrease of 0.5 index points or 0.41 percentage points compared to the month of February 2018 for which the index was 121.9. This represents decrease of expenditure value by Rs.300.09 in the "Market Basket".

2.2 Contribution to M on M Changes:

Contributions to the decrease in CCPI from February to March 2018 are given in Table 2. The decrease in the index point by 0.41% was due to the expenditure value decrease of Food items by 0.46% and increase of Non Food items by 0.06%.

2.3 Contribution of Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages items: -0.46%

Decreases in value change were reported for Vegetables (0.18%), Big Onion (0.11%), Banana (0.07%), Red Onion (0.07%), Sea Fish (0.05%), Rice (0.05%), Papaw (0.02%), Green Chilies (0.01%), Potatoes (0.01%) and Garlic (0.01%) while increases in value change were reported for Coconut (0.09%), Chicken (0.01%) and Eggs (0.01%).

2.4 Contribution of Non Food items: 0.06%

Among Non-Food groups, increases in value change were reported for 'Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine House Hold Maintenance' (0.04%) and 'Housing Water Electricity Gas and Other Fuels' (0.01%). The groups of 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics', 'Clothing and Foot wear', 'Transport' and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' showed an insignificant value change while other groups remain unchanged during the period.

Table 02: Contribution to the change in CCPI from February 2018 to March 2018 (Base 2013=100)

Sub Group/Commodity	Value Change			
	Rs.Cts.	% change		
		Increase	Decrease	Net effect
Food	-341.61	0.10	0.57	-0.46
1 Rice	-34.30		0.05	
<i>Rice - (Kekulu white)</i>	-8.51		0.01	
<i>Rice - (Kekulu - red)</i>	-11.22		0.02	
<i>Rice - (Samba)</i>	-5.89		0.01	
<i>Rice - (Nadu-White)</i>	-6.92		0.01	
2 Chicken	5.16	0.01		
3 Sea Fish	-33.66		0.05	
4 Eggs	8.11	0.01		
5 Coconut	63.03	0.09		
6 Banana	-48.99		0.07	
7 Papaw	-15.99		0.02	
8 Vegetables	-134.59		0.18	
9 Potatoes	-8.59		0.01	
10 Red Onions	-47.82		0.07	
11 Big Onions	-78.17		0.11	
12 Garlic	-4.16		0.01	
13 Green chillies	-9.53		0.01	
14 Others	-2.11			
Non Food	41.52	0.06		0.06
15 Housing,Water,Electricity,Gas and Other Fuels	9.07	0.01		
<i>Maintenance/ Reconstruction</i>	9.07	0.01		
16 Furnishing , Household Equipment and Routing Household Maintenance	28.68	0.04		
17 Others	3.77	0.01		
All Items	-300.09			-0.41

*Percentages of items do not tally with overall percentage due to rounding off.

3. INFLATION:

The CCPI is an economic indicator constructed to measure inflation which is defined as percentage change in CCPI over the year. There are two measures of inflation in general use. One measure is Year on Year base or Point to Point inflation (The percentage change in the CPI during the last 12 months). The other measure is Moving Average Inflation (The percentage difference between the average Price Index of last 12 months & the average Price Index of previous 12 months).

Table 3: Movements of the CCPI (Base: 2013=100)

Year	Month	Index Number	All Item			Food			Non Food		
			%Change Month to Month	Inflation %		%Change Month to Month	Inflation %		%Change Month to Month	Inflation %	
				Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.		Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.		Y on Y	12 Months Moving Avg.
2017	March	116.5	-0.2	7.3	5.0	-0.7	9.2	7.4	0.1	6.5	4.1
	April	117.1	0.5	6.9	5.3	1.7	8.6	7.5	0.1	6.3	4.5
	May	118.2	0.9	6.0	5.4	2.3	9.3	7.6	0.3	4.6	4.5
	June	120.1	1.6	6.1	5.5	4.8	9.1	7.6	0.3	4.8	4.6
	July	119.4	-0.6	4.8	5.4	-1.7	4.8	7.0	-0.2	4.7	4.7
	August	118.8	-0.5	6.0	5.5	-2.5	6.9	6.9	0.5	5.7	4.9
	September	119.7	0.8	7.1	5.8	1.6	10.4	7.1	0.3	5.5	5.2
	October	120.8	0.9	7.8	6.1	2.6	12.6	7.6	0.3	5.8	5.4
	November	122.2	1.2	7.6	6.4	1.7	13.8	8.4	0.9	5.0	5.5
	December	122.9	0.6	7.1	6.6	1.3	14.4	9.3	0.2	4.2	5.5
2018	January	122.8	-0.1	5.8	6.6	-1.9	10.5	9.8	0.8	3.8	5.3
	February	121.9	-0.7	4.5	6.4	-2.9	6.0	9.6	0.1	3.8	5.0
	March	121.4	-0.4	4.2	6.1	-1.5	5.1	9.2	0.1	3.7	4.8

3.1 Year on Year (YoY) Inflation

The YoY inflation as measured by CCPI is 4.2% in March 2018 and inflation calculated for February was 4.5% (Table3). YoY inflation of Food Group has decreased from 6.0% in February 2018 to 5.1% in March 2018 and that of Non-food Group decreased from 3.8% in February to 3.7% in March during this period.

3.2 Contribution to Y on Y inflation:

For the month of March 2018, on year to year basis, contribution to inflation by food commodities was 1.5%.

The contribution of Non Food items was 2.65%. This was mainly due to increases in value change in groups of 'Education' (0.59%), 'Restaurants & Hotels' (0.44%), 'Health' (0.40%), 'Transport' (0.28%), 'Furnishing Household Equipment's & Routine Household Maintenance' (0.37%), 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' (0.21%), 'Clothing and Footwear' (0.19%), 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (0.17%) and 'Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco and Narcotics' (0.01%) while decrease in value change in the group of 'Communication' (0.02%).

3.3 Moving Average Inflation

The moving average inflation rate for the month of March 2018 was 6.1%. The corresponding rate for the month of February was 6.4%.

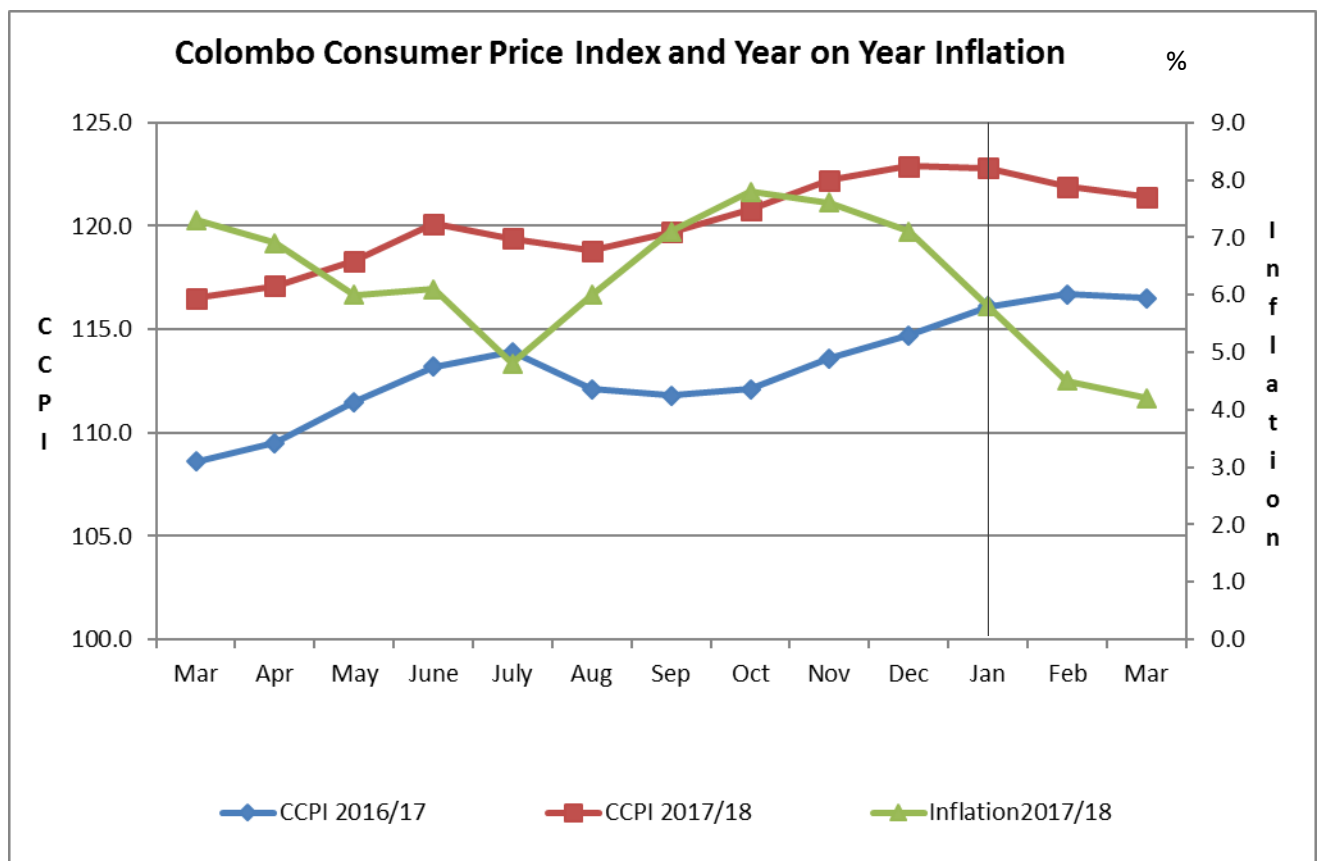


Table 4 : Monthly average open market retail prices of selected items of Colombo Consumer Price Index (March 2017, March 2018 & February 2018)

Item	Unit	Retail Prices (Rs. Cts)			Retail Price Changes (%)	
		2017 March	2018 February	2018 March	Mar.18/ Mar.17	Mar. 18 / Feb.18
1. Rice– Kekulu – Red	Kg	82.12	88.16	86.45	5.27	-1.93
2. Rice– Kekulu – White	Kg	76.88	82.49	80.66	4.92	-2.21
3. Rice –Nadu - White	Kg	81.14	86.70	84.93	4.67	-2.04
4. Rice –Nadu - Red	Kg	87.50	100.74	98.89	13.01	-1.84
5. Rice– Samba	Kg	92.30	103.73	103.25	11.86	-0.46
6. Cowpea	Kg	291.87	296.06	297.48	1.92	0.48
7.Green Grams	Kg	242.65	248.81	247.09	1.83	-0.69
8. Coconut	Each	60.25	77.02	79.47	31.89	3.17
9. Coconut Oil	750ml	281.14	288.84	289.34	2.92	0.17
10.Chicken	Kg	437.75	478.95	481.35	9.96	0.50
11. Eggs	Each	14.78	13.95	14.58	1.35	4.51
12. Red Onion	Kg	154.44	287.12	207.44	34.32	-27.75
13. Big Onion	Kg	95.90	131.97	102.23	6.61	-22.54
14. Potatoes	Kg	133.37	113.07	109.54	-17.86	-3.12
15. Garlic	Kg	481.66	300.91	283.17	-41.22	-5.91
16. Dried Chillies	Kg	284.54	265.74	275.18	-3.29	3.55
17. Green Chillies	Kg	332.05	257.21	221.42	-33.32	-13.92
18. Sugar	Kg	104.17	109.13	108.72	4.36	-0.38
19. Pepper	Kg	1743.14	1572.29	1562.37	-10.37	-0.63
Vegetables-						
20. Ash Plantain	Kg	133.55	153.85	143.87	7.73	-6.49
21. Carrot	Kg	128.93	149.41	141.89	10.05	-5.04
22. Snake Gourd	Kg	144.22	150.39	141.12	-2.15	-6.17
23. Tomatoes	Kg	101.69	99.13	93.07	-8.48	-6.11
24. Capsicum	Kg	248.04	275.51	211.13	-14.88	-23.37
25. Beetroot	Kg	127.44	150.50	115.67	-9.24	-23.14
26. Beans	Kg	197.25	241.88	216.83	9.93	-10.36
Fruits						
27. Banana	Kg	152.85	148.13	138.30	-9.52	-6.64
28. Papaw	Kg	153.03	103.76	96.21	-37.13	-7.28
29. Mangoes	Each	67.52	86.73	88.08	30.44	1.56
Fresh Fish –						
30. Seer	Kg	1348.55	1514.71	1492.49	10.67	-1.47
31.Talapath	Kg	937.27	1110.56	1089.04	16.19	-1.94
32.Paraw	Kg	909.21	1042.38	999.37	9.92	-4.13
Dried Fish -						
33.Katta	Kg	1189.86	1199.58	1188.83	-0.09	-0.90
34. Sprats	Kg	656.45	709.02	706.19	7.58	-0.40
Fuel -						
35. Kerosene Oil	Lt	44.00	44.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
36 .Petrol (CPC & IOC)	Lt	117	117.00	117.32	0.27	0.27
37. Diesel (CPC & IOC)	Lt	95.00	95.00	95.18	0.19	0.19
38. Gas- Avg.	12.5kg	1321.00	1431.00	1431.00	8.33	0.00
Litro	12.5kg	1321.00	1431.00	1431.00	8.33	0.00
Laughs	12.5kg	1321.00	1431.00	1431.00	8.33	0.00

Actg. Director General
Department of Census and Statistics